



Community Newsletter

Vol. 1, Issue 3

December 2008

Message from the Superintendent/Principal

First, I would like to thank the community for their recent support at the town meeting regarding a feasibility study. This important step will allow us to resolve the space issue in our school system and preserve the accreditation status that is so important to our students, staff, and parents. Over the next few weeks, we will be working diligently to present the results to the public for consideration. In the meantime, we will continue to provide a quality education for all students in the school system.

December is a challenging month for educators. Students and their families are distracted by activities and obligations of the season during a time when classroom work becomes more demanding. Teachers have their own family obligations, yet they must stay focused on student achievement and meeting high academic expectations. Knowing this, I am impressed with the ability of our principals, teachers, and support staff to turn the weeks before winter break into “teachable moments” for students. Each of the schools does a great job of incorporating lessons on the value of being contributing, caring members of the community.

Our fall season programs are coming to a close, and the winter season programs are about to begin. I would like to congratulate all the fall programs on their successes and wish all the winter programs good luck.

One of the programs I would like to call attention to is the music program. All UHS Musical Ensembles will perform their annual Holiday Concert on December 10th at 7:00 P.M. in the UHS Auditorium. On Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00 PM the Beginner Band and Middle School Chorus will perform. On Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 PM, the Intermediate and Advanced Bands will perform at Whitin Middle School. While some changes have been made in the content of the program over past the few years, it continues to showcase the talent of our students and music directors. The program represents winter celebrations with music that will lift everyone's spirit.

Have a happy holiday season however and wherever you celebrate.

Daniel J. Stefanilo
 Superintendent/Principal
 Uxbridge Public Schools

Inside this issue:

<i>Curriculum</i>	2
<i>ELC</i>	3
<i>Taft Elementary</i>	4-5
<i>Whitin Intermediate</i>	6
<i>Music Notes</i> <i>Food Service</i>	7
<i>UHS</i>	8-10
<i>Students of the Month</i>	11
<i>Pupil Services</i>	12
<i>District Calendar</i>	13

Special points of interest:

- Gifted/Talented Program p. 2
- UHS Project Go Green p. 9
- Drama Club Presents *Scrooge's Christmas* p. 10
- Run/Walk Challenge p. 13

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT**Uxbridge Schools Focus on Programs
For Gifted and Talented Students****District Mission Statement**

“Uxbridge Public Schools provide challenging educational programs and services to meet the diverse needs of all the students in a safe, supportive environment and, in partnership with the community, prepare students to become competent, creative, and contributing citizens.”

**Inherent in this mission of Uxbridge Schools is a focus
on meeting the needs of our gifted and talented students.**

Thanks to a grant from the State Department of Education, a team of Uxbridge administrators, teachers, and parents met during the past summer to review, revise, and develop a plan for identifying and servicing gifted and talented students in our schools. Team members organized their research into a Resource Manual titled, “Evidence Based Practices that Work with Gifted Students.” The Resource Manual includes the following sections:

- Mission Statement and Guiding Principles for Gifted Education
- Identification Process for Gifted and Talented Students
- Checklist: Identifying Characteristics of Gifted Students
- Comparison of a Bright Child and a Gifted Child
- Program and Service Options for Gifted Students
- Differentiating the Curriculum for Gifted Learners

Resource Manuals were distributed to all staff in Uxbridge Schools as part of professional development training on November 11, 2008. Printed copies of the “Gifted and Talented Planning Team Manual” are available for parents in the main office of each school. In addition, selected sections of the report can be reviewed at www.uxbridgeschools.com.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

November was an exciting month in preschool. Fall conferences were held and were a great success with over ninety percent of parents taking part. The preschool teachers all enjoyed the opportunity to talk with parents and further enhance their home/ school relationships. Preschool curriculum for November included a variety of exciting topics including pumpkins, scarecrows, falling leaves, acorns and other seasonal themes.

The goal of music classes at ELC is for children to find joy in making music as well as develop their musical skills. Music lessons have focused on providing a wide range of musical activities including singing, movement, and using instruments. Some songs we've been singing include Baa Baa Black Sheep, Wheels on the Bus, Yankee Doodle, and Big Black Cats. Movement activities have included Statues in the Park, Woodpecker Tapping, and the Wolf Game. We've also been using many different rhythm instruments to accompany songs and work on steady beat.

Kindergarteners have been busy in Art class during the months of September, October, and November. We have talked about famous artist Mary Cassatt and created family portraits; observed our faces and created self portraits; painted symmetrical Monarch Butterflies; painted to music like the famous artist Wasily Kandinsky; talked about fall and created painted fall trees; reviewed shapes and created Colored Zoo animal faces and scarecrow drawings. We have painted flower vases using warm colors in the technique of Vincent Van Gogh.

As we progress through the school year you will continue to see process orientated, open ended art projects from kindergarten artists. Art lessons reflect the goals and standards of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Lessons very often reflect curriculum activities, drawing, painting, fine motor skills and creative expression

The Kindergarten teachers and their students at the ELC are participating in a food drive to benefit the Uxbridge Food Pantry. They are collecting food monthly with a theme based on what the pantry's needs are. During the month of November they have collected paper goods. They will be practicing adding, graphing and general math skills.

Social Service Notes—Holly M. Earl, ELC—(508) 234-9164

As you know, each school has a School Social Worker available to the students, staff and parents for a variety of support services. Additionally, there are many support services available to families in the community. I would like to use this space to update information on those services. We have also recently started a teacher webpage affiliated with the Uxbridge Public Schools website, which is still under construction.

People First Food Pantry – Uxbridge established a food pantry in 1995 – 7 Court St., Uxbridge (Community House at the First Evangelical Church). Tel/answering machine: (508) 278-5506. Hours: Wednesdays, 11 AM -1 PM and 6:30 PM – 8 PM.

Fuel Assistance – You may be eligible for assistance even if your

rent includes your heat. Deadline for this year is generally April 2009. Applications are taken at the Uxbridge Senior Center/COA (278-8622), Catholic Charities (234-3800) or SMOC (508-620-1230).

WIC (Women, Infants & Children) – Information, referrals and health care services (immunizations, pregnancy testing, vitamins, lead testing, sick visits, well child exams, school & work physicals, etc.) and checks (\$\$) for nutritious foods you and your child need. They have an office in Milford and a van that travels to 16 towns daily. Call if you need to find a location. WIC office (634-8012) and WIC van – (800-942-1007).

WIC FREE FLU CLINIC Schedule-

10/6 – Douglas – Picket Fence Rest parking lot	1-3
10/20 – Sutton – Step in Time PS – Rte 20 South	10-noon
10/27 – Oxford – WalMart parking lot	10 – 1
11/6 – Whitinsville – Shaw's parking lot	3-5:30
11/21 – Sturbridge – Stop & Shop parking lot	10:30-2:00
11/24 – Oxford – WalMart parking lot	1-3
12/4 – Whitinsville – Shaw's parking lot	3-5
11/13 – Bellingham - Market Basket parking lot	1-3 PM

Questions – call WIC on Wheels (508) 641-4829

MassHealth – The MassHealth program provides comprehensive health insurance—or help in paying for private health insurance—to more than one million Massachusetts children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities. MassHealth Customer Service (800-841-2900)

Food Stamps - Most families who meet the federal income rules can get food stamp benefits. Food stamp benefits help you buy nutritious food that you need for your family. (800-249-2007)

Blackstone Valley Free Medical Care Program - Clinic provides free medical care. Hours are: the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at Northbridge High School (6-8 PM)

YOU, Inc. - GED program for students out of high school, ages 16-21; located @ Trinity Episcopal Church, 33 Linwood Ave., Whitinsville, (508) 266-2125

Holiday Help – may be available to families and senior citizens who are struggling this winter. Help may be available for food, clothing and gifts. Please call your school social worker if you would like to apply.

InterAgency – We participate in an interagency group which meets monthly to share information about available resources and needs. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month @ the Uxbridge Police Station, 9:00 am. The next meeting is 12/3/2008.

The InterAgency Group has responded to the current need for assistance with heat and utilities by establishing a committee to raise funds by sponsoring a pasta dinner in January. If anyone is interested in assisting with the committee, please contact us.

EARL D. TAFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This month at Taft School several activities raised awareness of national and local happenings. The school took part in a mock election with the victory going to Mr. Obama. Our fourth graders looked beyond themselves to raise money for veterans. We participated in a Mix It Up at Lunch Day to help students reach outside of their circle of friends to include others. My staff continues to work diligently to educate all students, challenging and supporting the different learners in our classrooms. We are proud of our students and their accomplishments.

As we near the holiday season, I am reminded of all the blessings that have come my way throughout my life. I would like to wish all of the Taft community and the Uxbridge community at large a happy, healthy, and memorable holiday season!

Taft Students Spell out Donations for Veterans

Fourth grade students raised a sum of \$2,150.75 for the Uxbridge VFW Post 1385 and the Disabled American Veterans by spelling patriotic words and getting sponsors for the test. The winning class who raised the most monies won a trip to the Brockton VA Hospital in Brockton, MA. Mrs. Schotanus's class raised \$618.00. They will be going on this winning field trip, December 4, 2008. Patriotic songs will be sung under the direction of Mrs. D'Andrea at the hospital, and children will eat a box lunch, and socialize with the disabled veterans. Mr. Ernie Esposito, Korean War Marine Veteran/Chairman of the Uxbridge School Committee, will come with us too. Huge thanks go out to Vendetti Bus Company for donating the transportation for this memorable trip.

Honey Farms Presents \$500 Grant to Taft

The Honey Farms Convenience Store in Uxbridge recently awarded Taft School \$500.00 in grant money to be spent on Science/Math programs for this school year. We appreciate the partnership with the Exxon/Mobil Educational Alliance. Mrs. Montesi and Ms. Fafard can approach the teachers as to how we will spend the money wisely for these content areas of the curriculum.

Metacomet Land Trust Awards Taft with Environmental Award

On Saturday, November 22, 2008, Ms. Fafard attended the Metacomet Land Trust's 20th Anniversary Celebration. Taft School has been recognized for our contribution this past Earth Day and throughout the year. Our efforts to educate adults as well as students by planting trees and decorating shopping bags with Earth Day messages for Hannaford Supermarket has demonstrated our commitment to bettering the environment and working in partnership with others. Ms. Fafard informed the Land Trust that Taft School will have a GO GREEN WEEK during the week of April 4-13, 2009 where the students and Taft will further their commitment to Environmental Studies.

Special Olympics and Best Buddies Programs

Mr. Catalano and Mrs. Sousa are starting Special Olympics of Massachusetts (SOMA) and Best Buddies Programs. Our mission is to provide year round sports, fitness, and social opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ages 5-21) so they can develop and prepare for entry into school and community programs. Their participation gives them the values of courage, joy, and important

life skills that will strengthen their abilities to be productive. If you would like to learn more about these new programs or would like to volunteer please contact Mr. Catalano at the Taft School (508)278-8643 or Mrs. Sousa at the Independence Project (508)779-0388.

Hello from the Taft Library

The Scholastic Book Fair comes to the Library after Thanksgiving during the first week of December. During your child's library time that week, he/she will have an opportunity to peruse the Book Fair offerings and volunteers will be on hand to help him/her in making purchases if desired.

Get Physical and Healthy

Mark your calendars for Jump Rope for Heart Week coming in February 2- 6, 2009. Start practicing now at home and during recess. A Professional Jump Rope Team will put on a demonstration during January for the Taft students.

Second grade students are busy learning about cleanliness, safety, and nutrition during their eight week Health class time.

Computer Bytes

An Internet Safety Night was held at Taft School on November 20th. Potential dangers and risks about the internet and safety were part of the program.

Third and fourth grade students are doing a super job with Type to Learn, second grade students are learning how to use Microsoft Word and saving to My Documents, and first grade students are busy learning how to take care of software, how to open programs, and what icons are.

EARL D. TAFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"Kids Art Fair"

The first annual "Kids Art Fair" is coming up in December. Please see the backpack flyers for this event information. Art work can be viewed the night of parent conferences on 12/4/08. You may contact Mrs. Henries or Mrs. Heidi Quinlivan at dhenries@uxbridge.k12.ma.us or hquinlivan@uxbridge.k12.ma.us

Music Notes

The fourth grade Taft School Chorus is in full swing as they prepare the music for the Uxbridge High School play, *Scrooge's Christmas*, where we are featuring the chorus as the musical portion of the play with several high school 'carolers'. Approximately, thirty members of our forty-two voice chorus will be part of this exciting show on *Thursday, December 11 and Friday, December 12, at the Uxbridge High School Auditorium at 7:00 pm*. Tickets are \$5.00 in advance and \$7.00 at the door.

Cold and Flu

Cold and flu result in more absences in school age children than almost any other illness. Here is a list of suggestions from the Taft School Nurse, Mrs. Donatelli:

- Frequent handwashing to prevent the spread of germs. Dispose of tissues carefully.
- Avoid sharing eating or drinking utensils.
- Clean contaminated household objects (i.e. phones, toys) frequently. Wash dishes in hot, soapy water.
- Try to have your child keep his/her hands from his/her faces.
- Get plenty of rest. Prop up pillows if your child is congested to help with breathing difficulty. Using a vaporizer or humidifier can help.
- Drink plenty of fluids (hot or cold).
- Eat when hungry.
- Parents can consider using a decongestant, pain relievers or vitamin C supplements to relieve the symptoms of cold and flu as directed by your health care provider or pharmacist.

PTO

On Friday, December 5, 2008, from 6:30-8:30 pm, the PTO sponsored Book Fair will feature a Pajama Party for preschool and kindergarten students and their families. Join us for a story time featuring a special guest along with crafts and refreshments! Profits for the Book Fair will fund the Books and Beyond program as well as book donations to Taft and ELC teachers. Several volunteers will be needed for this event! Call Kallie Spaulding at 508-278-8085 if interested in volunteering or you have any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 1 – 5, 2008 PTO Scholastic Book Fair

December 4, 2008 Evening Parent Conferences – Full Day of School

December 4, 2008 Mrs. Schotanus – Grade 4 Classroom Field Trip to Brockton VA Hospital in Brockton Ma.

December 5, 2008 Parent Conferences – 11:45 am Dismissal

December 5, 2008 Holiday Party UHS

December 6, 2008 ELC Storytime and Book Fair 8:30-11:30 am

December 11-12, 2008 Scrooge's Christmas UHS Auditorium

December 11, 2008 PTO Meeting 7:00 pm in Taft Cafeteria

December 11, 2008 Holiday Gift Wrap

December 22, 2008 Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Bandstra's class-Uxbridge Senior Center Sing-a-long

WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear Families,

Thank you for your continued support of our middle school. I'm happy to inform you that Whitin Middle School staff members continue to strive to be the best for your children. If you are in need of our assistance, please call the Whitin Office at (508) 278-8640. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Reducing Holiday Stress

The holidays are a time of great joy and excitement for children and their families. But they can also sometimes bring with them the added stress of trying to deliver the best holiday celebration ever. Children's Hospital Boston psychiatrist Stuart Goldman, MD, offers the following tips and advice to help children and parents enjoy healthy, happy holidays.

Shopping: Set realistic expectations for holiday shopping and do so well in advance of the day presents will be opened. Parents and children often mistake the best holidays with those in which they give or receive the most presents. Addressing this early helps take the pressure off everyone.

School vacation: Add a little structure to your child's school vacation. Plan activities, such as playing board games, going to the movies or sledding outside. Consider scheduling activities the whole family can participate in together.

Get outdoors: Keep children active. The winter brings less daylight, which can lead to more inside time and less physical activity. Try to get outdoors, even if only for a little while.

Bedtime: Make sure children get plenty of sleep. Holiday time often begets later bedtimes. Make sure your child gets back on his regular sleep schedule before going back to school.

Healthy eating: Give children sugary treats in moderation. Excessive sugar is believed by some to cause hyperactivity, irritability and sleeplessness, and it certainly does little good.

Traditions: Consider establishing special

holiday traditions that children can look forward to year after year. This gives them something to focus on other than presents.

Talk: Be mindful of past events, like the death of a loved one or a divorce in the family that may resurface around the holidays. Address these changes in advance, explaining that the holidays will be different and that it's okay to express feelings about it.

Remember, holidays are built on relationships and traditions, both of which require work but are absolutely worth it to ensure that this, and future, holiday seasons will be memorable.

Classroom/Student Activities

Campaign 2008 in Grade 6

On Monday evening, November 3rd, two sixth grade Social Studies classes participated in a presidential debate and a mock election at Whitin Middle School. For two weeks, the students studied the candidates of Campaign 2008. Students were placed in the Democratic or Republican party and began their research of each candidate's views on five popular issues: education, energy, health care, the financial crisis, and the War in Iraq. The forty-four students invited families and friends to come in and watch them debate these issues. Presidential candidates and their top aides answered questions and expressed their views on hot political questions. The students then escorted the audience members to Precinct 102 or Precinct 103 where they registered and voted in our mock election. Refreshments were served while we waited anxiously for the votes to be tallied. Barack Obama won over John McCain by three votes. Congratulations to these bright and enthusiastic students for putting on such a magnificent show of knowledge and talent!

Whitin Marching Band Performs In Parade

On Sunday, November 9th, ninety students from the Whitin Middle School marched with the WMS Band in the

Veterans' Day Parade. This is their third appearance in this parade and they are getting better and better each year!! Eighth grade students Nicole Jolicoeur and Daniel Haynes performed Taps at both Sullivan Square and the Town Common. Andrew Reardon and Lindsey Centrella, also in grade 8, were the featured student speakers during the ceremonies on the Town Common.

Whitin Gives Back

The Whitin School held canned food drives during the first two Fridays in November. The students and staff brought in over 600 needed food items that were donated to the People's First Food Pantry in Uxbridge. As a reward for bringing in a food item, the students had their hands stamped and were then able to wear a hat for the day. Thank you to those that participated in such a worthy cause.

Whitin Middle School Physical Education. Seventh grade students at Whitin Middle School are participating in karate during class this November and December. Shihan Matthew Jacome, 5th degree black belt from Kensho-Ryu Family Kenpo is the instructor. The emphasis in class, along with the physical aspects of improved fitness, is on developing concentration, self-confidence, self esteem, and focus. Students are working at their own pace with the emphasis on having fun and learning an activity that has lifelong benefits. Dean Tourangeau, a physical education teacher at Whitin School, is learning right along with the students as he participates in class. Mr. Tourangeau would like to thank Shihan Matt for his contribution to improving the total fitness of the students at Whitin Middle School.

Upcoming Events

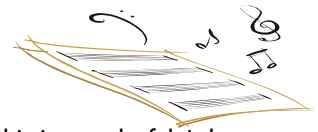
12/3: PTO Meeting – 6:30

12/9: Grade 6 Storyteller Assembly

12/11: Curriculum Day - ½ day

12/16: Beginner Band & Chorus Concert

12/17: Intermediate & Adv Band Concert



MUSIC NOTES

The enrollment in the instrumental music program at Whitin tops 180 students this year! While this is wonderful, it has created a situation with our winter concert. Our Beginner and Advanced Bands are now too large to fit on the stage at Uxbridge High School! While we can fit on the Whitin stage, the audience seating capacity in that venue is limited. We have discussed many options and have concluded that the best solution is to hold **two separate concerts** on consecutive evenings. The schedule is as follows:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16 - 7:00 PM - BEGINNER BAND AND WMS CHORUS
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 - 7:00 PM - INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED BANDS
SNOW DATE FOR BOTH CONCERTS - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH.
LOCATION FOR ALL PERFORMANCES - WHITIN MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

The Music Department is sponsoring a quilt raffle to benefit the music programs in the Uxbridge Public Schools. For the fourth year in a row, a beautiful quilt has been handmade and donated by Mrs. Gabrielle Caron for the raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 and are available from Music Department staff and students. The quilt will be on display and tickets will be sold at the High School Concert on December 10th and at the Middle School concerts on December 16th and 17th. The winner will be announced at the December 17th concert.

Meanwhile, The Uxbridge High School Performing Arts Department is gearing up for a busy December as well. Join the UHS Concert Band, Concert Choir, Jazz Band, and Rock/Blues Groups for their annual Holiday Concert on December 10th at 7:00 P.M. in the UHS Auditorium. This will feature Holiday Classics such as "Carol of the Bells", "Sleigh Ride", and "Baby, It's Cold Outside" as well as a sing along for the whole family! This is a FREE Concert. Don't miss it! The concert choir and concert band will also be previewing their concert material, along with some other traditional carols at the Uxbridge First Holiday Night on December 6th from 5:30 to 8:30 at the Mosaic Studio in downtown Uxbridge.

Who's Running the Biggest Restaurants in Town? Meet Our School Food Service Managers

We'd like to introduce the individuals who have the big responsibility of preparing, on average, 1000 meals per day for the students and faculty of the Uxbridge Public Schools. These busy ladies are the key people who order and cook food, supervise and manage staff, and keep the kitchens operating smoothly. All are Certified Food Protection Managers, as well as members of the School Nutrition Association.

Ann Belanger is the Site Manager for Taft Elementary. She has been employed as a cafeteria worker for the Uxbridge Public Schools for 15 years, and was recently promoted this summer to the position of Site Manager. Mrs. Belanger was also the coordinator for the Uxbridge Little League concession stand for many years. She is a graduate of Uxbridge schools, lives in Uxbridge, and has 7 children & 7 grandchildren (with 2 more on the way!). Ann is famous at Taft for orchestrating the annual "Lunch Lady Luau", a theme day held every June that the students and staff of Taft always enjoy. If you are ever visiting Taft, you'll recognize Mrs. Belanger; she's the lady with a bonnet on her head!

Gail Thayer, the Site Manager for Whitin Middle School, has been an employee of our district for 18 years. Mrs. Thayer worked her way up, starting as a cashier and cafeteria worker, promoted to Taft Cook Manager four years ago, and was most recently hired as the Site Manager of Whitin Middle School. In addition to working in the food service program, hard-working Gail also has worked in the past as a substitute for the Extended Day Program, so she really gets to know the kids. Gail lives in Uxbridge, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren, and enjoys summers at the Cape with her family at their beach house.

Stephanie Barstow, Site Manager for Uxbridge High School, is new to our program this year. She holds an Associates Degree in Culinary Arts from Newbury College, as well as a Pastry Arts certificate. She has many years experience managing production baking operations, as well as in sales. Stephanie also has a great deal of interest in nutrition and health. She is an avid runner, often participating in road races on weekends. When she is not running, she spends her weekends decorating gorgeous cakes and working on her house renovations in Medway.

UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

WPI Math Meet

On October 21st, four UHS seniors participated in the Twenty-First Annual Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) Mathematics Meet. They were Ryan Normandin, Rachel Drywa, Derek Belanger and Patrick Rice. The meet took place in two parts.

The first is the individual competition where students answer mathematic questions that are beyond the normal high school level. Students are awarded scholarships based on the number of questions they answer correctly. WPI awards a \$1000 scholarship to the top scorer of each four person team. Our \$1000 award winner this year was Ryan Normandin who answered six of eleven questions correctly.

The second part is a team competition in which each school answers questions together. This year's honorary team captain was math teacher Dave Balunas. As a team, we had the best finish for Uxbridge in eight years; we finished in the top 39 out of 87 schools.

These four students have completed Advanced Placement Calculus as juniors and are taking Honors Calculus II/Discrete Mathematics as seniors.

Congratulations and great work to our team!!

UHS Library Media Center

Research projects and papers have dominated library activity for the past few weeks. There have been 95 bibliographies created (indicated completed research) in Noodletools and there were 266 returning users to Noodletools in October and 499 so far in November.

Mr. Sweeney attended the Massachusetts School Library Association annual conference in Sturbridge on November 3-4. The conference was notable for the introduction of the new American Association of School Libraries National Standards. A number of sessions addressed the new AASL Standards and one compared them with the Massachusetts School Librarians Association Information Literacy

Standards. Other sessions included Noodletools (used here at UHS) as an online citation maker and its various features to help student write research reports. The popular Massachusetts author Michael Tougias spoke at the dinner.

Mr. Sweeney will be traveling with a colleague to Chelmsford High School in early December to visit Chelmsford High School's Library Open House to visit their "Learning Commons" concept of library services. This new concept, now incorporated into some colleges, is beginning to filter down to high schools. This an informational visit.

Approximately 35 new items were added to the collection, both fiction and literary criticism. The fledgling graphic novel collection has become very popular with some students; they cannot seem to get enough of them. The plan with literary criticism is to continue increasing the depth of the collection and, at the same time, adding more contemporary literary criticism.

Social Studies

The Social Studies Department held a Mock Election for President/Vice President of the United States on Monday, November 3rd. In the past this election has been held on Election Day. However, because of the expectation of a high voter turnout, students were not in school while teachers had professional development. Nearly 400 students voted in this election with 72% voting for Barack Obama/Joe Biden and 28% voting for McCain/Palin. On the same ballot, UHS students voted for Student Government Day representative and alternate. Louis Lotfy, a senior, got the highest vote and will serve as the representative. Lindsay McQuade, also a senior, will be the alternate. Both students will accompany Mrs. Puckett to the State House in Boston where they will assume the role of an elected or constitutional officer for a day. This year Student Government Day is on Friday, April 3rd.

Mrs. Puckett's U.S. Government classes traced Electoral College results from

1988 to the present. They used red and blue colored pencils to show past and present divisions in the country. Students in these classes also made t-shirts to reflect the candidate they supported. Students supplied their own tees and Mrs. Puckett supplied the fabric markers and stencils.

Mrs. Judi Lanoue applied for and was awarded a grant from the Uxbridge Education Foundation for promoting civic interest among young people. Here at Uxbridge High School, Mrs. Puckett and Mr. Hutchings contacted all students who met the voting age requirement to encourage them to register. Those students who did vote were given a First-Time Voter t-shirt designed by Rashelle Palmer, a senior here at UHS.

On November 12th, Mrs. Puckett, Mr. Hutchings, and Mr. Silbor took 52 students to New York City. The trip was planned so that the students would have the opportunity to participate in a guided tour of the United Nations. Unfortunately, three days before the trip, the UN cancelled due to a high level/high security meeting that was unexpectedly scheduled for that day. No visitors were allowed in the area of the UN. The students were given a chance to see the UN building, Ground Zero, Battery Park, the Statue of Liberty, Wall Street, and the Intrepid. We also had lunch at Pier 17. The group then went to Broadway to see The Phantom of the Opera, now in its twentieth year on Broadway.

Mrs. Bouchard's U.S. History classes worked on magazine projects. Administrators and teachers, as well as students from other classes, had the opportunity to view these projects and speak to the students who worked diligently on this assignment.

UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Science/Technology Engineering

Wood and Construction Technology:

Classes are currently working on many projects throughout the building. For example, custom cabinets were built in the wood lab and have been installed in the student center. Counter tops will be installed and the last coat of finish should be applied before Thanksgiving. A large cabinet is in the process of being built for the cafeteria. The cabinet will be used to store various board games which the students are currently playing during the lunch periods. The classes are also working on a large trestle table which will have three large inlaid game boards. The table will be used by the Special Education Department in Spartan Café.

We are all excited about Corey Watson's boat that he is in the process of making. Corey hopes to sail by the spring.

Video Production: Though PEG Access the Video Production class has received 12 IMAC computers with twenty-three inch monitors that will be used to produce high quality video productions for both school and public access. The next phase of the video production expansion is the build out phase. This phase encompasses raising the ceiling height for a new lighting grid, a control room, new back drops, as well as an area designated for the editing.

Senior Physics: Three senior physics students (Tim Masiello, Alex Pendleton, Scott Vogel) modified their projectile motion lab to: 1. Measure the velocity of a *marble* fired out of the "CPO" (Cambridge Physics Outlet) Marble Launcher set at 20° above the horizontal using two photo-gates and computer software timing. 2. Apply concepts learned from two-dimensional kinematics to predict and verify the impact point of the *marble* fired out of the above launcher. The class is submitting to Vernier, the company who makes the photogates and software, their results for verification and future modification of the projectile motion lab to include projectiles launched at an angle, as well as, horizontally.

Pre-Engineering: The classes are currently using SolidWorks 2008 to design part drawings, assemblies and animation files of table top trebuchets. The trebuchets are also being manufactured by the same students utilizing the wood shop and the scrap pile. This project is showing the students the process of product development, design process as well as learning one of the top engineering programs in today's market.

CAD I: Students in class have started the year by learning the basics of AutoCAD Inventor program. Throughout the semester the students have been developing part drawings ranging from basic to complex. The students have now moved to making assembly drawings with associated part drawings. They are currently working on individual furniture drawings. Each student will be required to complete all part drawings, assemblies, and exploded assemblies associated with their furniture project. Students will be putting all drawings in a design portfolio which will be used for the college admission process.

Horticulture: The Horticulture class has been busy learning about pruning. We did two community service projects this month. One was pruning in the apple orchard on Oak St. The other was pruning overgrown lilacs at a house near the HS to learn how to rejuvenate overgrown shrubs.

Honors Biology: Students made 3-D cell projects that were fantastic pieces of art work. Students used various items to make 3-D models to compare prokaryotes to eukaryotes. Students are now learning about transport systems in the body, and are writing songs and poems that teach about the systems. Some are performed live in class. I am lucky to have such enthusiastic and talented students in my class.

Chemistry: Project Go Green - Chemistry

Uxbridge High School students took notice of the numerous bottles and cans thrown in the trash by their fellow classmates and want to do something

about it. The students want to start a recycling program designed to cut down waste on campus. **The Goals we hope to achieve are:** get the entire student body involved, help the environment, turn what would be wasted bottles and cans into profit for the school, heighten awareness of students and faculty of the importance of recycling by supplying them with information. **How we plan on going about it:** in order to get everyone involved, we have created a school-wide competition between grades. The grade that collects the most bottles and cans will be the winner. Bins have been set up in the cafeteria for each class. The winning grade will receive a portion of the profits earned from recycled cans and bottles, and the other portion could be donated to a charity. A Recycle Club will be formed to carry on recycle work at school once the competition is over.

A&P II: Students performed an investigation of the effects of exercise on the components of the human electrocardiogram, in which they used Logger Pro software to analyze graphical representations of the EKG. They subjected their data to statistical analysis with the statistics feature of Excel.

Environmental Science: Students performed a chemical analysis of water in the Blackstone and Mumford Rivers to determine the relative cleanliness of the two rivers. They compared their findings to data from the Internet about water quality to determine what their findings meant. Based on findings from this study, they will analyze the aquatic insect faunas of the two rivers. Students grew experimental populations of the aquatic plant Duckweed to determine rates of population growth and to determine how their findings related to the theoretical exponential and logistic models of population growth. Using the graphing and statistical features of Excel, they computed a best fit equation to their data, and related the shape of a best fit graph to the theoretical models.

UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

UHS DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS: "SCROOGE'S CHRISTMAS"

Begin your holiday festivities by attending Ken Jones' rendition of *Scrooge's Christmas*. This musical theater production will be presented by the Uxbridge High School Drama Club and the Taft School Chorus on December 11 and December 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the Uxbridge High School Auditorium. Ticket prices are: \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. Tickets are available by calling (508)278-8634 x7110 or by coming to the High School Main Office.

Enjoy an evening of music, theater, and holiday spirit!

SPARTAN CORNER

Congratulations to all UHS athletic participants who did a great job representing the Spartans throughout the fall season. Thank you to all those fans who came out and supported our teams. Our athletes appreciate it. Listed below are the current records for our fall teams.

Field Hockey	13-5-2
Boys Soccer	6-10-2
Girls Soccer	15-5-1
Golf	2-12
Boys XC	3-7
Football	5-5
Girls XC	10-0



The girls cross country team won their 6th consecutive SWCL championship this fall. The Lady Spartans have gone undefeated in the regular season for the past 5 seasons.

The girls soccer team was the 2008 Division 2 Central Mass Champions. The girls defeated Millbury High by a score of 3-2 at Commerce Bank Stadium in Worcester. The girls team advanced to the State Semifinal game vs. Wachonah Regional High School at Westfield State College. Congratulations to all girls team members on winning the first District Title in the sport of soccer in UHS school history.

For Mr. Joe McCourt who is retiring at the end of this season, this year's championship was the culmination of his many years of hard work and dedication. Coach McCourt began the program in the 1995-96 school year and has served as the head coach for the past 14 seasons. Congratulations and best wishes to Coach McCourt in his retirement.

The UHS fall cheerleading team participated in the SWCL competition under the direction of Ms. Jen Pond. This year's tournament was held at Northbridge High School on Saturday, November 8th.

The UHS field hockey team was another District Tournament qualifier this fall. The girls won their opening round game vs. North Brookfield High School and advanced to the quarterfinals vs. Lunenburg High School before losing in overtime. Congratulations to the girls on another great season in the sport of field hockey.

Best of luck to our winter athletes during their upcoming season. The following teams open their season on the dates listed below.

December 10 th	Boys & Girls Indoor Track- SWCL relays at Northbridge High
December 12 th	Boys Basketball- Home vs. Douglas
December 15 th	Girls Basketball- Away vs. David Prouty

* All team schedules are available on www.highschoolsports.net

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Two seniors (one boy, one girl) are nominated monthly by the faculty and staff at Uxbridge High School to receive recognition as *Senior of the Month*. Considerations for nomination include: demonstrates willingness to assist others, has good academic standing but does not need to be an A student, is respectful of others and self, is a good citizen, and involved with school/community service. Upon selection by the administration, the *Seniors of the Month* will have their pictures and brief write-ups displayed in the front lobby of the high school for recognition. Thank you to *North End Pizza* for their generous donation of gift certificates to each recipient.

Rachel Drywa

Rachel is an exemplary young woman that friends depend on and who displays the qualities that teachers love to see in their students. She is a conscientious, hard working and caring person. Her academic record is without a blemish. Rachel is ranked 2nd in her class with a GPA of 100.03, has achieved high honors every quarter, has taken and excelled in every AP course offered at Uxbridge High School, has perfect attendance and is the historian for the National Honor Society. She has received various departmental awards including Science, Math, and Family and Consumer Science. Rachel respects the importance of school work as indicated by her attention to detail in all her assessments. Rachel's hard work and dedication are not only seen in her academics, but they are apparent in the outside activities in which she is involved. As co-lead mentor to the UHS Mentoring Program, Rachel has embraced the opportunity to be a positive role-model to our freshmen students. She is a member of the track team, student council, is co-editor of the 2009 yearbook, and has participated in the Toys-for-Tots Holiday Party. Rachel is also active in her church as a lector, affirming her character and high moral standards. Rachel is a sincere and thoughtful friend who is willing to go that extra mile to help out. Rachel's quiet leadership will be missed when she leaves UHS but her determination and persistence for excellence will remain to inspire those who know her.

Timothy Masiello

Tim represents the best of Uxbridge High School's academic and civic aspirations. He is in the top ten of his class, boasting a 95 GPA, which includes a rigorous course load including AP and Honors level courses. Teachers describe Tim as a "breath of fresh air" when he walks into a classroom. He fully embraces the process of learning and extends himself beyond the norm. His interest in the sciences is evident with his involvement in the Environmental Science Club and his work with Mr. Worden on preserving the natural habitat of the purple loose trife – about which they were both appeared on local TV news! Imaginative and creative, Tim spends some of his rare spare time combining his love of science with a good narrative by writing science fiction. We will not be at all surprised to find, some years from now, his picture on the cover a sci-fi bestseller. Tim is a proud member of the UHS National Honor Society. A willingness to help others is just one of Tim's great character qualities. He has made quite an impact with the Student Council as the Historian, as a Peer Mentor to our freshmen students and at the Lydia Taft House where he has volunteered his time for the past two years. Tim is one of the first to step up and assist in time of need. His honesty, curiosity, and honor are traits that shine brightly every time he offers a helping hand. Tim truly reflects the finest of qualities in students at Uxbridge High School. We have no doubt that he will continue on a successful track through college and into his chosen career.

**It is our choices that show
what we truly are, far more
than our abilities.**

~J.K. Rowling

Pupil Personnel Services

Prevocational Life Skills—UHS

I am happy to report that all three of our students who participated in the MCAS Alternate Assessment through portfolio development scored within the 'Progressing' range. This benefits our AYP. Students and staff worked hard on these and it's nice to know they scored well.

The Prevocational Life Skills Class has been out and about. In November, we took a field trip to Providence Place Mall where students experienced making independent purchases and enjoyed some comparison shopping. We also were able to practice using escalators and elevators. It was a very enjoyable day.

Academically, in English we have been focusing on vocabulary building, writing skills and reading comprehension. In Math, students have been refining their money skills and have been adding and subtracting decimals. In Science, we have been learning about food borne illness and storing food safely. Students' computer skills continue to improve. In addition to our focus on email and writing skills, students have learned to copy and paste. They have also learned to use search engines to find information and to use the advanced options on search engines more effectively. The students are picking up new skills quickly and are maintaining and improving their keyboarding and use of the mouse.

Students are just beginning to participate in an Art project with Mrs. Blais called the Empty Bowls Fundraiser. Students are creating ceramic bowls and helping needy people. Updates and details will follow on this project. In Adaptive PE we've moved indoors and have been playing volleyball, badminton, and basketball. We've enjoyed having Ms. Medeiros and her students join us for an occasional game. The students are enjoying the team sports.

Upcoming events involving our class:

December 5 - Toys For Tots Holiday Party 5:30-8:30 p.m.

December 23 - Complimentary Holiday Buffet in the Spartan Cafe from 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

VISIT US ON THE WEB

<http://www.uxbridgeschools.com>

School Staff Email Addresses



Individual's first initial followed by

last name@uxbridge.k12.ma.us

(jlanoue@uxbridge.k12.ma.us)

DISTRICT CALENDAR – DECEMBER 2008

December 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Booster Club Mtg 7PM Taft PTO Book Fair All Wk.	2 School Com. 7PM UHS Library	3 PSG Mtg 7PM School Council 2PM Whitin PTO 6:30PM	4 Taft Evening Conferences	5 Toys for Tots Holiday Party UHS 5:30 - 8:30	6 Uxbridge First Night
7 Pearl Harbor Day	8 UHS College Financing Seminar 6-8PM	9 Whitin 6th Gr. Assembly	10 UHS Winter Concert 7PM SEPAC Mtg 7PM Whitin	11 "Scrooge" UHS Drama Club 7PM USEPAC G Wrap 4-8 Taft PTO 7PM 1/2 Day All Schools	12 "Scrooge" UHS Drama Club 7PM 7th Gr. Field Trip	13
14	15	16 Whitin Winter Concert 6PM	17 Whitin Winter Concert 6PM	18 Whitin Winter Concert Snow Date	19	20
21	22 Happy Hanukkah	23	24 No School Daycare Closed	25 Christmas No School	26 No School Daycare Open	27
28	29 No School Daycare Open	30 No School Daycare Open	31 No School Daycare Open			

Whitin School's Run/Walk Challenge

On November 22nd 170 registered walkers and runners participated in Whitin PTO's first annual Town Loop Run/Walk Challenge. Despite temperatures in the 20s, numerous participants and volunteers came out for the event. There were 8 different divisions with awards given in each. The overall winning time of 19:26 minutes belonged to Mr. Michael Sullivan. Every entrant received a t-shirt for his/her participation. In conjunction with Parents for a Safe Graduation and Taft PTO, the Whitin PTO raised over \$2,000. Thank you to the numerous volunteers, the 22 sponsors, and the many, many participants for making this event a successful one.